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part of an argument. Unfortunately this patriotic narrowness weakens a thoroughly sound conclusion. It has been said that only financiers to-day recognize the strength of France. When a financial power like hers grows up where nature has not lavished her gifts as with us, the moral stamina of the people is also convincingly displayed.

The book is well documented and its references and citations are pleasingly apropos. Of especial interest are the extracts from school text-books, to refute the charge of their immoral and irreligious character. Interesting too is the fact that criminal statistics have made a worse showing in periods of Catholic control than under lay rule. But of such items the book is full. Some chapters, however, are thin. That on History is perhaps the poorest, though little discrimination is shown in the treatment of the other social sciences as well. A mere enumeration of names is not of much value. There is a strange absence here of concrete statement. The survey of social legislation is too glowing. Much remains half-done in that field. Institutions of charity make a larger showing than they deserve. The apologetic tendency is too evident in such statements as: "In the French army an officer is suspended for debt" (p. 172). Not always; witness some figures in the Dreyfus case. It appears most frequently in the use of such epithets as "admirable" or "generous" with references to actions of rather plain social duty, and reaches a climax in his approval of the latest suburban architecture around Paris!

J. T. S.

*Europe since 1815.* By CHARLES DOWNER HAZEN, Professor of History in Smith College. (New York: Henry Holt and Company. 1910. Pp. xxiv, 830.)

MR. HAZEN tells us in his preface that his narrative "is based chiefly, as probably any synthetic work covering so large a field must be, on the elaborate general histories of different periods or countries, on biographies, and on the special monographic literature". It goes therefore without saying that the book is not written for specialists in this field; it is expressly composed for college students and for such general readers as are interested in taking a survey of the most recent phase of European history under an experienced guide. Mr. Hazen's task was largely one of presentation, involving selection and proportion of materials, emphasis, clearness, and all those related matters conveniently grouped under the heading style. His style in this generous sense of the word, that is, his personal contribution to the bulky mass of facts at his disposal, is uniformly admirable. Without ever waxing portentous he maintains an even tone of dignity exactly corresponding to the gravity of his matter. His expression is simple and clear without ever dwindling to bareness and without sacrificing that dramatic feeling toward great events by which alone they are realized in impressive

pictures. Finally, he is informed, circumspect, and rigorously impartial, as anyone may satisfy himself by turning to his handling of such contentious issues as the Ems despatch (p. 292), the Congo Free State (p. 554), and the Boer War (pp. 539 ff.). But these merits of temper and training admitted, a leading interest is certain to attach itself to the question of viewpoint. From what angle or platform does the author pass the movement of this wonderful century in review? Is he an old-school political historian, or does he lean toward the innovators, whether these favor the importation of economic and sociological or general cultural materials into our presentations purporting to be history? Undeniably Mr. Hazen is in the main traditionary, that is, he is convinced that a history of the nineteenth century is chiefly concerned with the march of democracy, the grant or reform of constitutions, the development of nationalism, and the relation to one another of the great powers in war and peace. That means, speaking generally, that he occupies the same ground as such predecessors in this field as Fyffe and Andrews. But the discussions of the day have troubled him sufficiently to force a slight concession offered in a concluding chapter—Certain Features of Modern Progress—which has every appearance of being an afterthought and which certainly fails to convey an adequate impression of the enormous cultural complexity and richness of the period. Only an inordinately unsympathetic reader will refuse to make full allowance for the difficulties of an author trying to meet a confusing mass of claims within strictly prescribed limits, but the doubt may fairly be voiced if the attempt was worth while. In the opinion of the present reviewer the informing spirit of the book calls for a final detailed political review which shows the states of Europe as a single commonwealth struggling to fulfill a common destiny. Mr. Hazen successfully shows this open and secret interlacing of diplomacy up to about the period of the Franco-German War, then and, curiously enough, at precisely the time when it acquired a greater potency than ever, it drops from sight and we get from him as good as nothing about the genesis and meaning of such combinations as the Triple Alliance and the triple *entente*, and we are left to clamor wholly in vain for light on the Anglo-German rivalry which so completely dominates the European world of to-day. Perhaps this is overemphasizing an individual judgment, but the conviction persists that the proportions of the book as well as its underlying assumptions would have been better served by a concluding political survey than by a necessarily hurried tabulation of the cultural contributions of the nineteenth century. The cultural history of this century presenting the whole forward movement of the age remains still to be written, and, desirable though it be, will hardly be produced till we have reached a much more clarified view than at present obtains of the aims of historical study.

The book owes much of its effectiveness to its having been written by a practical teacher. The rigorous adherence to broad lines, the elimi-

nation of confusing detail however picturesque, the admirable clarity of statement and logic of development, declare that the author never left out of consideration the difficulties of the student and specifically of the American student. This pampered individual has also been coaxed in other ways to be pleased to accept the advantages of an expensive education, as, for instance, by the proffer of the best set of maps that has ever been incorporated in this kind of volume and by descriptive bibliographies that have been compiled with careful and tender solicitude for his powers and needs. This first volume in the new American historical series is an emphatic endorsement of the view that the educational problems of our American colleges are best met by American teachers and scholars.

FERDINAND SCHEVILL.

*The Life of Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield.* By WILLIAM FLAVELLE MONYPENNY. Volume I., 1804-1837. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1910. Pp. ix, 401.)

If by any unfortunate mischance the two succeeding volumes of Mr. Monypenny's biography of the Earl of Beaconsfield should not be published, the first volume would leave the world wondering how it came about that the Benjamin Disraeli of 1804-1837—the period covered in this volume—ever became the leader of the Conservative party and served two terms as Prime Minister. It might be recalled that when Disraeli began to be influential within the Conservative party that party was going through one of the recurring periods when it has either used up or shed its best men and when it is almost without a policy. This was as obviously the case in 1846 after the Conservatives had broken with Peel over the repeal of the corn laws as it had been in 1829 when the Wellington administration hopelessly broke down and the Conservative régime which went back to 1784 finally came to an end. The condition of the Conservative party in 1846 was weak in the extreme, and recovery seemed as difficult as it had been after the end of Wellington's brief tenure of the leadership. But if the contents of these four hundred pages were all that were known of Disraeli, there would be little to suggest that a man of the character and achievements of Disraeli up to the time of his election for Maidstone in 1837 could be of any great service to a political party that was really attached to political principles, and dependent for its strength in the House of Commons—whether in opposition or in power—on the votes of a middle-class electorate such as existed from 1832 to 1867.

Mr. Monypenny may congratulate himself that he has succeeded with the most difficult part of his undertaking, and succeeded admirably; for no biographer of any English statesman of the nineteenth century had for his subject a man whose early years were less in keeping with the career of a future statesman. With the exception of Canning, Peel,